



Mask maker hits 750, p.8



Pandemic Experiences, p.9

## Co-op Launches First Online Ordering, Curbside Pickup

by Jill Stevenson

The Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy now offers online grocery ordering through Mercato, the online grocery e-commerce platform for independently owned grocery and specialty food stores.

During the pandemic, this service has been requested by Co-op members and other customers who want to shop with the Co-op while avoiding coming into the store. The pilot program aims to fulfill this need. Co-op is planning to offer home delivery soon.

“We’re excited and delighted to offer this new program,” says Co-op General Manager Dan Gillotte. “But the same supply challenges that exist in-store will exist online, so if it is not available in the store, it will not magically be available online.” Shoppers who use the Co-op’s online Mercato store can indicate with their order that Co-op staff may substitute the next best item on hand, if necessary.

“Anyone can order any time, any day for pickup on the following day,” says Gillotte. “Thanks to everyone for your patience as we’ve got most of the bugs



Co-op General Manager Dan Gillotte loads an online order into the car for a Co-op shopper.

worked out of this new offering.” To start, the Co-op is charging a 5 percent service fee and has a \$30 minimum per order, with a

limited number of pick-up slots available daily, so those who need a certain time should order as early as possible the day before to ensure a slot. When shoppers arrive at their pickup time, they should pull up along the green barriers toward the front of the store and call the store at 301-474-0522. It is advised to pop the trunk or open a door and staff will bring out the order in a contactless way. At the moment, Co-op is set to handle five pickup customers per hour during this early phase, with orders ready as the hour begins. Gillotte noted, “We are open to expanding the program’s capacity based on our experiences with it and the demand we experience.”

This online ordering program is for groceries only and not for

See COOP, page 7

## June 2nd Maryland Primary A “Stay at Home” Election

by Kathleen Gallagher

Once upon a time, not long ago, the State of Maryland was scheduled to hold both its Democratic and Republican primary elections on Tuesday, April 28, as part of the process of determining who would be nominated by their respective parties to run in the presidential election on November 3. That was before the impact of the coronavirus was fully appreciated. Joining 15 other states and Puerto Rico, Governor Larry Hogan decided that discretion was the better part of valor and issued a proclamation resetting Maryland’s primary election day to Tuesday, June 2. The deadline for registering to vote prior

to the primary elections was also extended to May 27.

Not only has the question of who the party nominees will be pretty well sorted itself out, but Maryland voters will have an election unlike any they have known before. At Hogan’s order the State Board of Elections submitted a plan for safely running the primary elections. The governor approved the board’s plan on April 10. What follows below is the outline for the plan, but some details are still being worked out.

The primary election will be conducted almost entirely by mail.

See PRIMARY, page 11



Signs at Buddy Attick Park encourage safe behavior for patrons enjoying the park.

### What Goes On

**Thursday, April 30**  
7 p.m. GHI Board of Directors Meeting, Special Open Session  
**Monday, May 4**  
8:30 p.m. Council Budget Worksession: Recreation Department  
**Wednesday, May 6**  
8 p.m. Council Worksession on Draft Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone. See details in Community Events on page 3.  
All meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.

### 2021 Budget

## General Government Budget Presents More Challenges

by Diane Oberg

The General Government budget covers the costs of the city council, city manager’s office, the museum director and the staff responsible for finance, human resources, information technology, economic development and public information. City Manager Nicole Ard’s proposed budget funded this account at \$3.9 million, roughly 11.8 percent of the total general fund budget. The Greenbelt City Council reviewed this budget at its April 16 worksession. However, these

numbers no longer reflect current conditions.

To no one’s surprise the impact of the pandemic topped Ard’s list of issues. Top priority is to protect the community’s health and safety, she wrote. Therefore, essential services, such as police and public works will continue while other services may be curtailed or delivered differently.

Even before the pandemic, See BUDGET, page 6



Standing well apart on the Court center walkway near Southway making noise are Christy Bailey, Sabrina Baron, Michelle Kadziel-Uber, JoEllen Sarff, Jonathan Lebolt, Robin Gorsline, John Cummins and Monica Mische. Not pictured: Anna Gallagher. See story, page 12.

## GAIL and CARES Services Continue During COVID-19

by Callan Clark Tansill-Suddath

*Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).*

Amid a disaster, the most vulnerable members of a community are at increased risk of falling through the cracks. In Greenbelt, two city programs, designed to look out for members of the community more likely to struggle, are providing services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

GAIL (Greenbelt Assistance in Living) assists senior citizens and underemployed members of the community. It has restructured its services to cater to the unique needs of clients at this time. Christal Batey, a community resource advocate, reports seeing an

increased need for services as the global economy becomes more unstable. “In 2008, when the economy dropped significantly, we expanded our reach to the unemployed and underemployed,” she noted. As a result of economic turmoil caused by COVID-19, Batey says “the number of people seeking assistance has grown immensely.”

A number of GAIL programs have been altered to accommodate new restrictions. One pressing issue is the ability to keep seniors in the community connected to loved ones while they are self-quarantining. Technology opens many doors for communication,

See SERVICES, page 11

# Letters to the Editor

## Kudos to Bob Davis

Thank you, thank you, thank you to Co-op General Manager Bob Davis for his wonderful contribution to the entire Greenbelt community in shepherding our town’s main food and pharmacy source through the thick and thin times since the Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative took over from Greenbelt Consumer Services in 1984. On the occasion of his well-earned retirement, as he hands off the management during these troubling times, he can look back with pride on his years of service, knowing he has given a career to this community and to the maintenance of this community resource.

From the very beginning, the board of the Co-op was fortunate to have found him with his command of cooperative principles, his managerial experience with cooperative grocery stores, his dedication to the well-being of the business and his round-the-clock commitment to service.

He helped steer the Co-op safely through the hard start-up times, recruiting assistant manager Dave Brinks as part of the managerial team. The increasing strength he fostered enabled the store to carry the financial burden of supporting the Co-op’s failing service station division on Southway before it was eventually sold. He kept store and pharmacy operations going through sudden failures in suppliers and sudden failures in power – all the while working patiently to keep the board and the Co-op members informed of the community services, thin margins and the need to keep up member patronage in the face of the competition from nearby chain stores.

It is fitting that, as the entire nation has come to appreciate the people who bring us our groceries, we give our thanks to Bob Davis who, even as he was preparing to hand over the reins, put in place the processes and safety measures that have enabled us

to continue getting our food and medications.

Thank you, Bob Davis. All the best in your retirement.

*Richard M. Bates  
(former Secretary of the Board, Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative, 1984-1990)*

## Respect for Chickens

May 4 is International Respect for Chickens Day. This annual project was launched by United Poultry Concerns in 2005 to celebrate chickens and bring awareness of the pain and suffering they experience in farming operations. Karen Davis, president of United Poultry Concerns, has written several well-researched books describing the hardships that chickens endure and how we can make a difference in their lives and improve our own health by adopting a plant-based diet. If you would like to learn more about her work, please visit her website at [upc-online.org](http://upc-online.org) where you will find a variety of information on this important subject.

*Donna Almqvist*

## Police Activity

Since the evening of April 14, the community had very little, if any, update on the activity of that evening involving a hunt for a fugitive in Greenbelt. Multiple police organizations were involved but the city and our neighborhood never received an all clear or an update after we were told to stay inside with doors locked. That evening police walked through our neighbors’ front and back yards with flashlights.

Even if this were not a City of Greenbelt Police Department operation, would it not be best for our police to comment if no other department would? I think this is an opportunity for our police to build an even tighter bond with the community. I inquired about this a week or so ago via our police department’s website but did

not hear back, though a delayed response could be expected with the current situation.

Thanks as always for serving our city so well!

*Steven Bernheisel*

## Our Immune Systems

Given that we are now greatly concerned about a particular virus . . . and given that our immune systems are our strongest protection . . . why not actually boost our immune systems?

There is a great set of instructions at [everydayhealth.com](http://everydayhealth.com), and they do a good job of explaining their “7 Ways to Keep Your Immune System Healthy.”

- 1) Eat a healthful diet.
- 2) Keep stress under control.
- 3) Get plenty of good quality sleep.
- 4) Exercise regularly.
- 5) With alcohol, practice moderation.
- 6) Don’t smoke cigarettes.
- 7) Keep symptoms of chronic conditions under control.

*Bill Norwood*

## Correction

In our April 23 article about this year’s virtual Crop Walk, we incorrectly reported the percentage of the federal budget that goes to humanitarian purposes. That percentage is 0.07, that is, seven one-hundredths of one percent, in the United States and overseas. One of the recipients of contributions will be Help by Phone of Prince George’s County.

## Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com) para ver artículos en español.



See our website, [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com), for articles in Spanish.

KEEP CALM AND WASH YOUR HANDS



## How Are You Coping?

Send us your stories and photos, showing what you are doing during forced time at home. We will publish a selection of these submissions during the coming weeks. Email [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

## Service or Garden Side?



Honors housepainting is now part of the homeschool curriculum.

*- B. Glee*



## Mail Alert

Due to the closure of the Community Center it appears that some mail sent to us is being returned to the sender. Mail can be placed through the mail slot in our outside door. If that is not feasible, please email us at [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

# Greenbelt News Review

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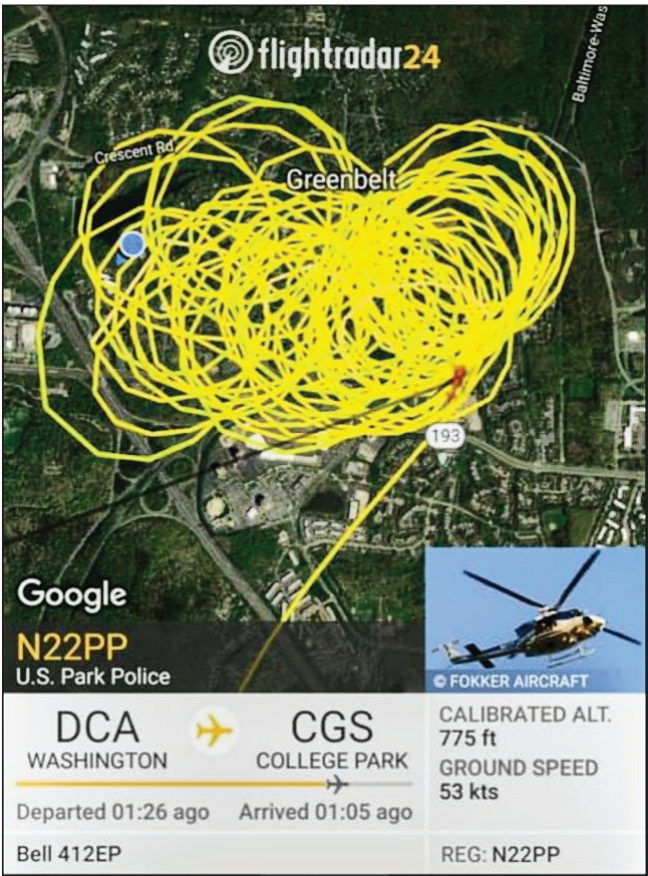
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Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.



Flight path of helicopter involved in search the evening of April 14

visit [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)

# Community Events

## Next Artful Afternoon Features Puppet Show

The Greenbelt Recreation ARTS program’s Artful Afternoon series will resume online on Sunday, May 3. At 3 p.m. guests can enjoy a performance of The Crystal Ball by Greenbelt’s own Beech Tree Puppets. Based on a classic Brothers Grimm fairytale, the show follows the journey of a prince as he overcomes great challenges to rescue his brothers who have been turned into animals. The performance will premiere on the Greenbelt Recreation ARTS YouTube Channel for Kids, which is linked at [greenbeltmd.gov/arts](http://greenbeltmd.gov/arts).

After the show, meet the puppets and puppeteers in a live Zoom meet-up. This event is free, but advance sign-up is required by following the link at [greenbeltmd.gov/arts](http://greenbeltmd.gov/arts). Registered participants will receive a Zoom link by email, along with an activity guide.

For information about additional free arts events and activities, visit the Greenbelt Virtual Recreation Center, which is also linked from the arts webpage. City of Greenbelt arts programs are sponsored in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.



PHOTO BY INGRID & OLE HASS

The prince in Beech Tree Puppets’ The Crystal Ball, which will be shown online at the May 3 Artful Afternoon

## Council Votes to Require Wearing Face Masks at Park

In response to numerous complaints and in the interest of public health, the Greenbelt City Council voted on Monday, April 27, to require face coverings while using Buddy Attick Park including the entire trail and park area. Signs will be posted at the park and violators will be subject to warnings and possible fines. Those with health issues that prohibit them from using masks and under the age of 2 will be excused. Please abide by this new rule as it is for both your safety and the safety of everyone that uses the park. Also, see the signs now posted in Greenbelt parks concerning social distancing. We appreciate everyone’s cooperation as we continue to do our best to keep Greenbelt residents safe during this pandemic.

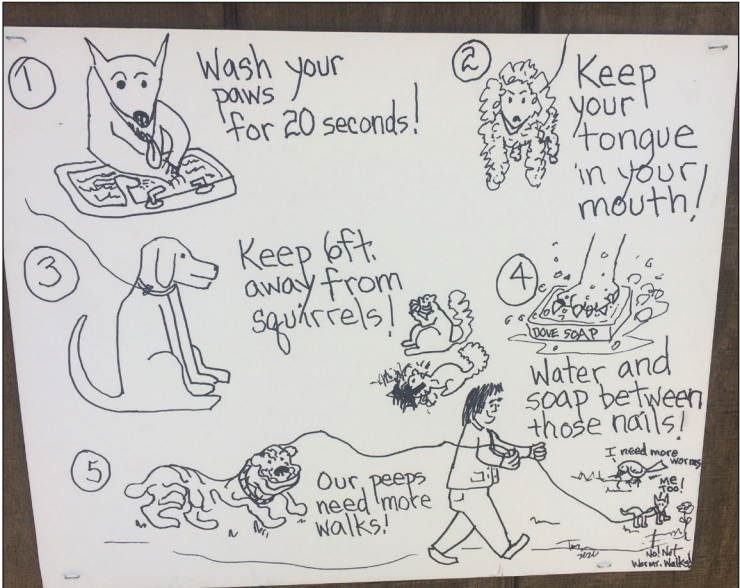


PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

In this witty sign found on the inner walkway at Northway, our companion animals are reminded to watch their COVID p’s and q’s.

## NCOZ Worksession

The Greenbelt City Council has scheduled a virtual worksession on the Greenbelt Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone for Wednesday, May 6 at 8 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Draft Greenbelt Neighborhood Conservation Overlay (NCO) Zone Neighborhood Study and Draft NCO Design Standards released in March by Prince George’s County (these documents can be found at [zoningpgc.pgplanning.com/GreenbeltNCOZ/](http://zoningpgc.pgplanning.com/GreenbeltNCOZ/)).

Chad Williams with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is scheduled to participate in the worksession. Participants are encouraged to submit questions and comments in advance of the worksession to Terri Hruby, director of Planning and Community Development, at [thruby@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:thruby@greenbeltmd.gov).

To participate in the worksession: by phone 301-715-8592 or by Zoom, meeting ID 848 3585 4610, password 565282.



## OGT’s Next Film Discussion Is May 3

The Old Greenbelt Theatre hosts film discussions via Zoom every Sunday at 2 p.m. This week, the “Flick of the Week” is Vertigo, the Alfred Hitchcock classic masterwork (1958, 130 minutes, rated PG). For anyone wishing to view the film ahead of the discussion, it is available for streaming on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, Google Play and YouTube (rental cost \$3.99). This film was selected by OGT volunteers Tammy Hurley and Stacia Woycheck, who will lead the film discussion on Sunday, May 3 at 2 p.m.

Go to [greenbeltheatre.org/film/flick-of-the-week/](http://greenbeltheatre.org/film/flick-of-the-week/) to register for the discussion and to receive information on how to access the Zoom call. Those who do not have internet access or do not wish to use a computer for the discussion can participate via phone. Call Kelly at 301-329-2034 to request access information.

### About the Film: Vertigo

An ex-police officer who suffers from an intense fear of heights is hired to prevent an old friend’s wife from committing suicide, but all is not as it seems. Hitchcock’s haunting, compelling masterpiece is uniquely revelatory about the director’s own predilections and hang-ups and is widely considered to be one of his masterworks.

## Storytelling in ASL Crowdcast Saturdays

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System, in partnership with the Old Greenbelt Theatre, will offer Storytelling with ASL (American Sign Language) hosted by Erikson Young starting on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. on Crowdcast. The virtual program, recommended for ages 2 to 5, will continue for the duration of the public health emergency.

Go to [pgcmls.info/virtual-events](http://pgcmls.info/virtual-events) to find the link on Saturday mornings for an ASL reading adventure.

## GAC Cabaret On Facebook

Greenbelt Arts Center is hosting a virtual cabaret on Facebook, where participants can post weekly videos of themselves singing a song based on a different theme each week. To join the group, go to Facebook and search for GAC Virtual Cabaret.



## Restaurant Updates

An updated list of local restaurants which are open for take-out/delivery can be found at [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).



## Tea Time on Zoom

Greenbelt Community Tea continues to meet weekly on Thursdays at 7 p.m. for a purely social time, to help counteract cabin fever and to get to know the neighbors. Make a cup of tea and hop onto Zoom.

The group talks about anything and everything.

Find the group on Facebook at [facebook.com/pg/greenbelttimebank/events/](https://facebook.com/pg/greenbelttimebank/events/).

The Facebook event includes the link to the Zoom call.

Those not on Facebook can email [greenbelt.timebank@gmail.com](mailto:greenbelt.timebank@gmail.com) to request the Zoom link.

The Community Tea is not a Greenbelt Time Bank event, but they are offering their resources to make this successful.

## Library Expands Virtual Programs

All of the Library’s virtual programs are listed at [pgcmls.info/virtual-events](http://pgcmls.info/virtual-events). Virtual events produced by the Library are broadcast on Crowdcast, with select additional streams to Facebook, YouTube and Periscope.

The Library’s virtual programs frequently feature special guests from partner organizations.

Spanish language virtual programs are now available on a weekly basis. They include Bibliotiños, a biweekly Spanish read-aloud program for children ages 2 to 5, and a bilingual English/Spanish read-aloud on Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

On Tuesdays at 4 p.m., the Library offers a weekly “Café a las cuatro” series of discussions in Spanish with special guests from local government to discuss resources and current issues.



## Community Compost

The hot compost station near Springhill Lake Recreation Center is still actively collecting food scraps from current participants.

Email questions to [GreenbeltNeighborhoodCompost@gmail.com](mailto:GreenbeltNeighborhoodCompost@gmail.com).

## Toastmasters Meets Online Wednesdays

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club has gone virtual. Those interested in improving communication or leadership skills are invited to join online or by phone every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Find details for joining in remotely at [greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org](http://greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org).

## School Meals Pickup Twice a Week

Selected schools have been distributing free breakfasts, lunches and snacks daily from multiple locations in the county. Springhill Lake Elementary is the local pickup point for students who attend any school. Students get meals for two days on Mondays and for three days on Wednesdays.

Parents may pick up meals for students who are unable to come to the site by showing a student ID or report card. Meals are available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parents and guardians are not required to accompany students nor are students required to show ID.

## Arts Advisory Board To Meet May 5

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5 over Zoom. Discussion topics will include a potential gift of artwork for the Municipal Building, designs for bike racks as part of the city’s memorialization program and the possibility of continuing the board’s community arts mixer series on digital platforms. Members of the public who wish to attend are asked to email [ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov) to request meeting access information. Guests may also call 301-474-8000, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for information about participating by phone.



Program Schedule **Friday May 1 - Thursday May 7**

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE		
7 am	From the GATe Archive	• Selected Programming
8 am	Democracy Now!	• Repeat of Yesterday's Program
9 am	Utopia Film Festival ★ <small>Shorts/Docs From Past Festivals</small>	• Twisp: The Power of Community • Victory Swim
11 am	From the GATe Archive	• Selected Programming
12 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
1 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	• Kids Science Quiz Show
2 pm	From the GATe Archive	• Selected Programming
3 pm	Utopia Film Festival ★ <small>Shorts/Docs From Past Festivals</small>	• Twisp: The Power of Community • Victory Swim
5 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	• Kids Science Quiz Show
6 pm	From the GATe Archive	• Selected Programming
7 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
8 pm	Utopia Film Festival ★ <small>Shorts/Docs From Past Festivals</small>	• Twisp: The Power of Community • Victory Swim
10 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
11 pm	From the GATe Archive	• Selected Programming

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77  
STREAMING LIVE at [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream)

# Social Security Will Be Paid On Time. Beware of Scams.

Andrew Saul, commissioner of the Social Security Administration, said that Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit payments will continue to be paid on time during the COVID-19 pandemic. The agency also reminds everyone to be aware of scammers who try to take advantage of the pandemic to trick people into providing personal information or payment via retail gift cards, wire transfers, internet currency, or by mailing cash to maintain Social Security benefit payments or receive economic impact payments from the Department of the Treasury.

“Social Security will pay monthly benefits on time and these payments will not be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Saul said. “I want our beneficiaries to be aware that scammers may try to trick you into thinking the pandemic is stopping or somehow changing your Social

Security payments, but that is not true. Don’t be fooled.”

The Department of the Treasury will soon provide information about economic impact payments under the recently enacted law, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Treasury, not Social Security, will be making direct payments to eligible people. Social Security offices do not have information about these payments.

The Social Security Administration requests that the public use its online self-service options whenever possible. Local offices are closed but services are available by phone.

To allow available agents to provide better phone coverage, the agency has temporarily changed hours of operation for the national 800 number. New hours are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. local time. Expect longer than normal wait times. The agency requests that 800 number callers remain patient, use its online services at [socialsecurity.gov](https://socialsecurity.gov) or call their local office. The national number is 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Visit the agency’s COVID-19 webpage at [socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/](https://socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/) for important information and updates.

*Material for this article was drawn from a press release received from the Social Security Administration.*

## Dependent Children

According to a recent Social Security information bulletin, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients who have dependent children and did not file 2018 or 2019 taxes need to act by Tuesday, May 5, in order to receive additional \$500 payments for their eligible children quickly.

Find information at [irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here](https://irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here).

De acuerdo con un reciente boletín informativo de la Seguridad Social, los beneficiarios del Ingreso de Seguridad Suplementario (SSI) que tienen hijos dependientes y no presentaron los impuestos de 2018 o 2019 deben actuar antes del martes 5 de mayo para recibir pagos adicionales de \$500 para sus hijos elegibles rápidamente.

Encuentre información en [irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here](https://irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here).



## Rena Hull

On Thursday, April 23, longtime Greenbelt resident Rena Hull died. Services will be held at a later date. More information to follow.

## City Notes

Code Enforcement inspected Co-op’s pandemic-related ingress/egress improvements. Animal Control evicted geese from the swimming pool and officers noted that dog bite and barking complaints had increased. Two kittens are sheltered, one is in foster care.

In Greenbelt’s parks, recreation staff posted COVID-19 signs and park rangers picked up trash and renewed caution tape.

Youth Programs added fun content to the Virtual Recreation Center while Mom’s Morning Out staff connected preschoolers via Zoom and dance instructors created more youth dance videos. CARES Judge Hering offers lessons for teens and adults on the department’s Distance Learning Portal.

Greenbelt Recreation Arts hosted two art shares this week, one for adults and one for children, and shared a variety of art tutorial videos. One video shared this week, created by Rachel Cross, shows how to make bird sculptures out of vegetable bags. The Greenbelt Day Artful Afternoon will be on Sunday, June 7.

In its continuing efforts to reach seniors in need, Therapeutic and Recreation staff distributed 30 frozen meals to seniors.

Community Center staff trained on bicycle safety and maintenance. Aquatic & Fitness Center staff received post-COVID-19 operations training and helped rid the pool of geese.



PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA

The median strip along Hanover Parkway is a riot of spring color with tulips, irises and other flowers.

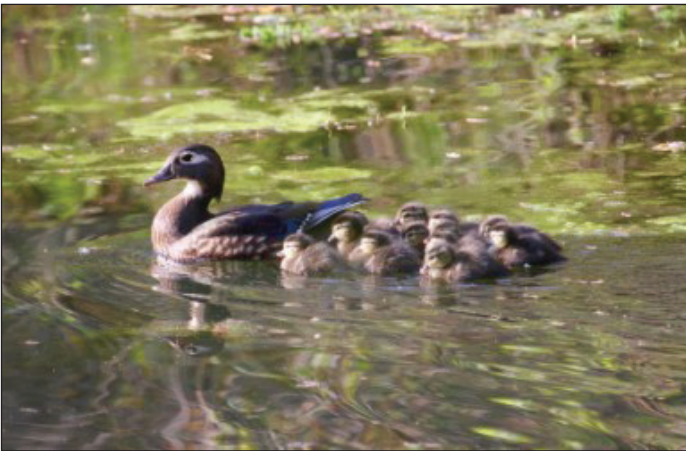


PHOTO BY HEATHER ETTUS

The first brood of wood ducks has hatched at the Lake.

## Mishkan Torah Happy Hour

Join Mishkan Torah's Membership Committee for a Zoom Happy Hour from 5-6 PM on Sunday, May 3! Enjoy your favorite beverage or snack with good (virtual) company, connect with other current and prospective members, and discuss how we can better support each other and our community. All are welcome. Email [membership@mishkantorah.org](mailto:membership@mishkantorah.org) to get the link.



## Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield  
*An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.*

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
All services and activities are currently virtual  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

The Bible Says...

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower;  
The righteous runs into it and is safe.”  
Proverbs 18:10



Sunday Worship Services  
10a-11a ONLINE  
[MCFcc.org/online](https://MCFcc.org/online)

## Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)  
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

May 3 10 a.m.  
"Team Paint Branch!"  
Rev. Rachel Christensen and DMRE Chris McCann; with Worship Associate Elizabeth Porter

A Whole Church worship we intend to be a playful celebration of moments of delight. We hope you will join us and dress up for the service in something that makes you happy. I can imagine some Nats Tee shirts, or a sparkly gown, or maybe a tiara. What would you wear?  
Streaming information at [bit.ly/TeamPBUUC](https://bit.ly/TeamPBUUC)

## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt  
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors  
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://facebook.com/mowattumc)  
301-474-9410  
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor  
In person worship services cancelled for now.  
Live streaming on our Facebook page  
[@mowattumc](https://facebook.com/mowattumc). 10 a.m. Sunday mornings



“No light can compare with the light of justice. The establishment of order in the world and the tranquility of the nations depend upon it.”  
– Bahá’í Writings

## Greenbelt Bahá’í Community

1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918  
[Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com](mailto:Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com) [www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

## Greenbelt Community Church

Our Sunday Worship Services are Cancelled until Further Notice  
Check us out on Facebook Live  
Sunday at 10:30 AM  
<https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD>

1 Hillside Road 301-474-6171 Rev. Glenyce Grindstaff

## ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHANGES DURING THE HEALTH EMERGENCY

All public Masses have been cancelled. Please check our website for updates on how our parish is continuing to serve our community.

135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)





Our sympathies to the family and friends of Rena Hull, who died on April 23. Mrs. Hull was the Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen in 1999 and a member of the Voight family, Greenbelt pioneers and long-time contributors to the community. Her husband, Larry Hull, is a longtime member of our proof-reading team.

Our condolences also to the Craig family and friends on the recent death of Louise Craig. Mrs. Craig was the mother of David Craig, whose memory is honored by the scholarship in his name.

Congratulations to Michael Addy, who graduated Sunday, April 26, from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer information systems and technology. Because of the pandemic, the graduation was held online. It can be viewed at [upb.pitt.edu/commencement](http://upb.pitt.edu/commencement), on the university's Facebook page, [facebook.com/PittBradford](https://facebook.com/PittBradford) and YouTube channel, [youtube.com/user/uPittBradford](https://youtube.com/user/uPittBradford).

In further academic good news, Sophia Bernheisel, on Saturday, April 18, was among 19 St. Mary's College of Maryland students inducted into Phi Beta Kappa's Zeta Chapter of Maryland. The virtual ceremony took place via Zoom in response to the pandemic.

Elena Lumby and another neighbor on Laurel Hill Road have spent about a year hauling mulch, clearing out invasive plants and trash to clear a nice place for blackberry plants to live.



Elena Lumby works in the blackberry patch.

COVID-19 has come to Greenbelt. According to the [coronavirus.maryland.gov](https://coronavirus.maryland.gov) website, the number of our neighbors in zip code 20770 suffering from the virus by Monday, April 27, was 153 cases. Stay safe.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

Illegal aliens have always been a problem in the United States. Ask any Indian.

- Robert Orben

Paid advertisement



# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

## UPCOMING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Monday, May 4 at 8:30pm, **Budget Work Session re: Recreation**

Tuesday, May 5 at 7:00pm **Arts Advisory Board**, *On the Agenda: a potential artwork gift, designs for bike racks; and the possibility of continuing the board's community arts mixer series on digital platforms. Members of the public who wish to attend are asked to please email [ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov) to request meeting access information.*

Wednesday, May 6 at 8:00pm, **Greenbelt Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone**

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION IS POSTED ON THE MEETINGS CALENDAR AT [WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV](http://WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV)

## FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED AT BUDDY ATTICK LAKE PARK

At its meeting of Monday, April 27, the City Council voted to have signs placed at Buddy Attick Park requiring face coverings while in the park. This excludes those who are not able to wear a mask due to health reasons or those under 2 years old. Signs will be posted at the park.

## VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Public Safety Advisory Committee, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Youth Advisory Committee

**For more information call 301- 474-8000**

## CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE CITY'S CHARITABLE FUNDS

The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations

**GOOD SAMARITAN FUND TO ASSIST ST. HUGH'S FOOD PANTRY:** This fund is overseen by the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA). The St. Hugh Food Pantry will also take food donations that are dropped outside of the church office at 135 Crescent Road. Thank you so much for your help!

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND:** Established to accept and disburse donations received to assist Greenbelt residents to pay rent to avoid possible eviction. Approximately a dozen individuals receive assistance from these funds each fiscal year.

**Now you may donate online at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/donations](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/donations).**

You can also mail a money order or check to: City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt Road 20770. Please notate which fund in the notes section of the check. You may also use the drop box on the flag side of the building. Receipts will be provided and mailed out to you.

## CENSUS 2020

### GREENBELT COUNTS

Your Community is Counting on **You** to Fill out the Census !



If our community is undercounted, we miss out on \$1,825 per person each year



The Census is used to distribute billions of federal funds for hospitals, roads, and other vital programs



The Census is used to distribute federal funds for programs that are critical for schools, students, and younger children

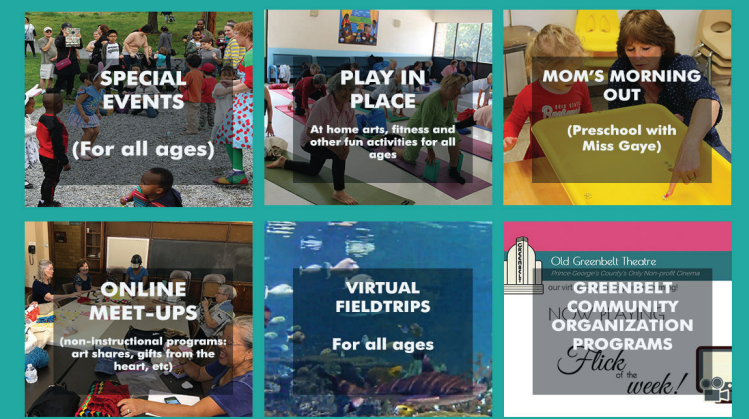
Complete the Census today online at [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov) or by phone at 844-330-2020



This project has been financed in part with State funds from Maryland's 2020 Census Grant Program. Project content or opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the State of Maryland or any of its instrumentalities

[WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/COVID19](http://WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/COVID19)

**NOW AVAILABLE AT [WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/VIRTUALRECREATION](http://WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/VIRTUALRECREATION)**  
**VIRTUAL GREENBELT RECREATION!**  
**CLASSES, ACTIVITIES, ARTS, FIELD TRIPS, SPECIAL EVENTS AND MORE.**



**CITY OFFICES AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ARE NOW CLOSED UNTIL MAY 30, 2020**  
**Based on Governor Larry Hogan's Road to Recovery, the State of Maryland is not at the stage for facilities to reopen. We will re-evaluate as the situation progresses.**

## City of Greenbelt

Assistance in Living (GAIL) Program Presents:

### Online/Call-In Support Groups

*Feeling isolated? Looking to connect with others? We are here to help.*

## Caregiver Support Group

Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 2pm - 3pm

## Social Distancing Support Group

Meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 2pm - 3pm

### Pre-Registration is Required

Open to persons 60 + Group is limited to 10 participants

Interested? Contact: Sharon Johnson, Group Facilitator

**P: 240-542-2029 or E: [sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov)**

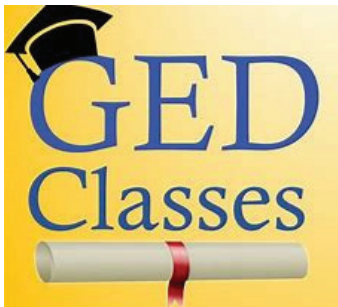


## Artful Afternoon: featuring the Beech Tree Puppets

**Sunday, May 3 at 3pm**  
Enjoy a performance of "The Crystal Ball" by Greenbelt's own Beech Tree Puppets.

Based on a classic Brothers Grimm fairytale, the show follows the journey of a prince as he overcomes great challenges to rescue his brothers who have been turned into animals. After the show, meet the puppets and puppeteers in a live Zoom meet-up. This event is free, but advance sign-up is required by following the link at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts). Registered participants will receive a Zoom link by email, along with an activity guide, during the week prior to the performance.

*Additional activities are posted in the Virtual Recreation Center now available at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation)*



## NEW! VIRTUAL GREENBELT CARES RESOURCES AND VIRTUAL GED CLASSES NOW AVAILABLE.

Greenbelt CARES has now made some of its services available virtually including a large list of resources on

mental health, domestic violence, food resources and more to help you get through the Covid19 crisis and GED classes. Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/cares](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/cares)

2021 Budget

# Worksession Examines GAIL, CARES and Admin Budgets

by Matt Arbach

The ramifications of COVID-19 on the Fiscal Year 2021 budgets of the Greenbelt Museum, Greenbelt CARES and Greenbelt Assistance In Living (GAIL) were the main topics at the Greenbelt City Council budget worksession on April 20. The uncertainties and challenges posed by the pandemic made budget decisions more difficult for council this time around.

The meeting began with council consensus on some form of notification to the city’s apartment complexes, condominiums and homeowner associations on proper sanitation and hygiene in accord with state, county and federal guidelines, especially in common areas. Whether this would come from council or staff, such as the Planning Department or Code Enforcement, is to be determined.

Mayor Colin Byrd was keen on getting coronavirus testing sites to the Greenbelt area, perhaps with help from Governor Larry Hogan. He suggested having them in the vicinity of Metro stations to better accommodate residents without cars.

### Museum

Greenbelt Museum Director Megan Searing Young presented her budget report to council, which included the most recent exhibits, programs, tours and collection/archives status, as well as their budget proposals, fundraising and update on the 10-A Crescent Education and Visitor Center.

The discussion focused on the aim of the Friends of the

Greenbelt Museum (FOGM) for a greater clarification of the roles played by FOGM and the city. According to the FOGM report to council, “the current MOU has significantly blurred lines of responsibility. There is not a systematic assignment of responsibilities and tasks.” FOGM would like to concentrate on fundraising, and delegate all “day-to-day tasks of running the museum” to the city. Currently, the city employs the museum director, with FOGM proposing that, in addition, the role of volunteer and education coordinator (a FOGM employee) be transferred to the city in a part-time capacity. This position would be “partially funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant awarded to FOGM in FY 2007,” according to the city budget report.

Councilmember Judith Davis was concerned about hiring new employees in this economic crisis, stressing that in more normal circumstances “council would probably entertain this.” Assistant City Manager David Moran replied that this part-time position would be a relatively budget neutral proposal, with the salary provided by the NEH grant and funds brought in from the gift shop, donations and tours. The meeting ended with a move to have a future meeting with FOGM to clarify all the budgetary details.

FOGM Board Member Jennifer Ruffner, in regard to the interior redesign project for 10-A Crescent, said that they “had a long way to go,” with \$200,000

of the anticipated \$500,000 raised. She speculated on “a more phased process,” and that FOGM will likely raise funds “as we go.”

Dr. Liz Park, director of Greenbelt CARES and GAIL, said that services have been up-ended under the pandemic. Yet, she said, “we have maintained our caseloads,” even adding more, as they have adapted to new approaches like teletherapy.

Christal Batey, community resource advocate for GAIL, said that a huge challenge has been providing services to clients, mostly seniors, without online connections, stressing that phone calls and mailing has compensated, saying that “we are learning to reinvent ourselves.” Batey said that most calls being received concern utilities and information on evictions, which have been deferred during this crisis. Group-style programs like the free produce distribution have been suspended due to the need for social distancing. Council was keen on developing new strategies to provide these food essentials.

Batey said that Green Ridge House, the senior-living complex, is now fully leased and virus-free at the moment.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts reminded the meeting that the search for a new space for CARES should not be forgotten, even in this health priority. Park answered that “we have not stopped looking at other spaces.” She also noted that she wasn’t sure if there was money in the budget for any of it.

Councilmember Edward Putens was concerned about residents, seniors in particular, having access to essentials, especially hygiene products, and suggested seeking out a supplier that could work with the city.

Byrd concluded the meeting with news that masks are now available for purchase at the Co-op Supermarket.

## Virtual Recreation Center



Chris Cherry and Stefan Brodd invite you to participate in a sing-along at the Greenbelt Recreation Virtual Recreation Center. Many activities and resources are available free to residents at [greenbeltmd.gov/government/departments-con-t/recreation-parks/virtual-greenbelt-recreation](https://greenbeltmd.gov/government/departments-con-t/recreation-parks/virtual-greenbelt-recreation) while the physical recreation facilities are closed.



Angella Foster (Ms. Angella) and her daughter Adelina help little ones match movement to story in one of Greenbelt Recreation's virtual dance classes.



Miss Gaye introduces caterpillar art and stories at the Greenbelt Virtual Recreation Center. Tips for substitute art supplies are given in case you don't have everything on hand!

- Photos courtesy Greenbelt Recreation

## BUDGET continued from page 1

Ard was concerned about the need to balance the extent of government services desired by the community against the ability to afford these services.

Other factors beside the impact of the virus were already challenging the city. The increase in the statewide minimum wage to its current level means that the recreation department’s summer camps and other “self-sustaining programs” no longer pay for themselves. Minimum wage is currently scheduled to increase annually, reaching \$15 per hour in 2025. This will force the city to either raise enrollment fees or subsidize these programs with tax revenue.

Ard pointed out that there is ongoing pressure to add services, staff and programs while holding the line on tax rates and fees. However, she noted that there is a reluctance to reduce services and programs.

Another challenge is managing and funding capital projects. Ard noted that the city’s facilities and infrastructure are aging, with some facilities, such as parts of the Community Center and elements of the outdoor pool, being over 80 years old. Even relatively new buildings such as the Aquatics & Fitness Center and the Police Station are now more than 30 years old. The city’s past practice of funding renovations through allocations to capital projects and reserve fund has not been enough to address these needs. In the future, she stated,

the city should consider bond financing or other borrowing mechanisms to pay for renovations.

### Management Objectives

Council appeared supportive of the proposal to require all employees to receive their pay electronically, a requirement already observed by many neighboring municipalities.

At least one councilmember opposed deferring the human resources objective to contract for a salary and compensation study.

City Treasurer Laura Allen told council that she plans to pull the plug on the efforts to implement an electronic timesheet system. Despite years of effort, the system is not yet operational. This initiative may be revisited in the future as part of the work to upgrade the city’s financial system.

Allen also noted that she expects the city’s costs for unemployment insurance will increase. In response to a comment at the April 14 council meeting, she reviewed the impact of the coronavirus on the amount and timing of city revenues and advised council that she is “unable to recommend the city commit more resources at this time.”

As part of her austerity actions, Ard is proposing canceling payment for all nonessential travel and training, including councilmembers’ participation in conferences. She did recommend continuing advocacy efforts, including economic development.

## Greenbelt Federal Credit Union SOCIAL DISTANCING / NEW BUSINESS HOURS until further notice

Due to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic and our state Governor's recommendations, our business hours have been modified.

The branch will be **closed to members on Tuesdays and Thursdays**; you may call to schedule an appointment for loan closings or new account openings. The branch will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays normal business hours, and on Fridays from 9am to 5pm. Thank you for your understanding.

Please remember Social Distancing to keep yourself and our staff safe.

We encourage our members to utilize our electronic services as much as possible. This includes **online banking w/bill pay, visiting our atm to make deposits and withdrawals, and using our mobile app to check your balance**. If you need assistance signing up or using these services please contact us and our staff will be happy to help you.

Thank you for your membership.



Greenbelt FCU

## “Feed Greenbelt” Initiative Helps Feed Locals in Need

Michael and Leah Moon of DC Vegan (DC-Vegan.com) and Pastor Jeff Warner from MCF Community Church (MCFcc.org) share a passion for helping Greenbelt’s residents. It is especially important during this unprecedented worldwide pandemic to look out for the welfare of the community. The most vulnerable among us are having a harder time than ever before, so the Moons and Warner partnered to create Feed Greenbelt to provide free meals to local food-insecure residents. DC Vegan already provides free meals at cost to health care workers.

MCF is spearheading this new service. Those in need can apply through MCF’s website (MCFcc.org/FeedGreenbelt) to be recipients of delicious, wholesome and nutritionally balanced meals that are made from quality ingredients and without added chemicals. Individuals who wish to contribute can make tax deductible donations to MCF, which uses 100 percent of the donations toward providing meals. Visit the MCF website to make a donation. Each \$10 donation provides one reheatable meal to a Greenbelt resident in need.

Meals are offered on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. via contactless pickup at the New Deal Café front patio. Free contactless delivery is available if needed.



HELP COMBAT  
FOOD  
INSECURITY  
IN GREENBELT

[www.MCFcc.org/FeedGreenbelt](http://www.MCFcc.org/FeedGreenbelt)

## Roosevelt Club Encourages Residents to Safely Participate

by Konrad Herling and Lyn Doyle

The Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club’s meetings to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote in March and the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day in April were postponed due to the coronavirus. The club’s board is now considering how to reach out during the shutdown to its members and Greenbelt area residents. The upcoming primary on June 2 and the presidential election in November increase the importance of this activity.

Residents voting in the June 2 primary will be voting by mail. Voting by mail has worked successfully in five states and allows voters to stay home and be safe. For more information about the primary or to join the Club, go to [rooseveltclub.com](http://rooseveltclub.com) or contact Konrad Herling at 301-345-9369.

Club members and the community as a whole are urged to support the annual CROP walk this Sunday, May 3, to raise awareness about and funds to assist those suffering from hunger. Fewer than usual will be walking but all can contribute to the cause and write to the local members of the U.S. House and Senate to express their concern that only 0.07 percent of the national budget is dedicated to addressing this issue. Contact Lyn or Bob Doyle of CROP’s Executive Committee at 301-328-7598 for more information.

Finally, the Club urges everyone in the community to submit their census surveys as the total number has a direct impact on the funding that Greenbelt receives from the federal government.

## Co-op Stays Ahead of COVID With Distancing and Masks

by Johanna Goderre

Greenbelt’s homegrown Co-op grocery store is instituting many changes to continue providing its essential service to the community. In the midst of the pandemic, a long-planned management change is also underway. After 35 years, General Manager Bob Davis is handing leadership to Dan Gillotte, who started April 13. Gillotte said, “I fell in love with Greenbelt on my visit in March and my first days only increased that appreciation. Citizens’ care for each other is very impressive.”

Shoppers will see many changes to reflect best practices for safety. All customers must wear masks and enter the store at the parking lot ramp. Exit is via the Roosevelt Center doors and uses the exterior ramp to the parking lot in a configuration endorsed by city code enforcement. Plastic bag recycling is now outside. Co-op is more frequently sanitizing carts, conveyor belts and keypads at checkout registers and the ATM, using a powerful commercial disinfectant approved for COVID-19. The popular produce and dairy aisles are one way.

Co-op requests one shopper per family and recommends planning a list based on store location to avoid backtracking. Managers monitor the number of shoppers in the store and during busy times institute a “one in, one out” policy at the entrance. Sanitizing wipes are available at the inside basket pickup and customers should remain six feet apart from other shoppers whenever possible. Shoppers should discard single-use face masks in trash cans with a secure lid.

Co-op’s suppliers have kept up with demand for popular perishables including produce, dairy, eggs and milk. However, quantity limits apply to goods in short supply which have included baking flour, paper goods and cleaning products.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 7 to 9 a.m. are reserved for vulnerable and immune-compromised patrons and these have become the store’s busiest times. The number of shoppers at other times of day has proven difficult to predict, but late morning and mid-afternoon have often been the quietest.



The door to the Co-op from Roosevelt Center reflects the new one-way traffic pattern, as well as other pandemic-fighting precautions.

Evolving guidance from health and government officials is a challenge for staff and customers. Gillotte reports staff fear catching coronavirus or making family or

loved ones sick. “But staff are very positive and rolling with the changes it seems, even though it’s hard,” he says, “I’m already so proud of them.”

## COOP continued from page 1

prescriptions provided by the Co-op Pharmacy. The pharmacy staff will work with a customer to arrange curbside pickup or even for home delivery on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

For more details, visit [greenbelt.coop/cms/shop/online-ordering/](http://greenbelt.coop/cms/shop/online-ordering/). There is a list of Frequently Asked Questions about the online ordering pilot program. To place an order on the online store, click on any of the Mercato logos on the Co-op’s website ([greenbelt.coop](http://greenbelt.coop)) or on the Co-

op’s mobile app. Jill Stevenson is Co-op’s Marketing, Membership and Community Outreach Coordinator and a former Co-op board secretary.

### Secret Shopper

On Wednesday, April 29, the News Review’s secret shopper picked up her order at the Co-op using their Mercato system. Within 5 minutes of arrival, groceries were in the car. Everything was packed, cold things cold, and a minor substitution was made due to quantity. Ordering took some orientation, but will improve as the system ‘learns’ individual preferences and the catalog is tuned to group foods better.

Three thumbs and two big toes up for online ordering and pickup at Coop.



Kindness  
Is Contagious

Wash Your  
Hands  
of Animal  
Suffering

Live  
Vegan

United Poultry  
Concerns  
[www.UPC-online.org](http://www.UPC-online.org)

# Greenbelters Find New Ways To Celebrate Earth Day 2020

by Rayonna Burton-Jernigan

This year, the commemoration of Earth Day was special because it was the 50th anniversary of the first celebration in 1970. And despite the stay-at-home order, many Greenbelters got out to celebrate the day.

Hally Ahearn spent her Earth Day reconnecting with nature as the sun shone. “I worked through my garden all day. It was one of the few days without rain and it was just gorgeous,” said Ahearn.

The Sunday following Earth Day, Marjorie Donn, who is a part of the green team at her church, helped put on a church service that was dedicated to the current state of the earth.

Her role consisted of reading the book *The Secret to Saying Thanks* to children as someone else showed pictures.

Lore Rosenthal, program coordinator for the Greenbelt Climate Action Network, a project of the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society or CHEARS, made the most of her Earth Day/Week by facilitating the Reel and Meal on April 20, participating in national planning phone calls for Earth Day Live, mentoring students in creating presentations about climate change and doing online action with the money pipeline.

She gave insight into why Earth Day is different this year, especially with younger people getting more involved in the climate change movement.

“It was different, because this year, the focus was on the climate crisis rather than on planting trees or doing stream clean-

up. People are realizing that we haven’t done enough. As those of my generation have not yet solved the climate crisis, now the younger generation, the students and young people are left to handle this crisis,” said Rosenthal.

“The climate crisis is a serious problem. And we need to fight for those who are most impacted now,” she continued. “Rather than taking to the street, we had to take to the internet highway.”

Before the stay-at-home order, many plans were in motion to ensure that this Earth Day would be packed with activities to produce a change in the climate crisis. Even with big plans being canceled, that is not stopping what is happening on a local level.

Tom Taylor won’t let canceled plans stop his path to a greener community. Taylor celebrated the day by giving a presentation on trying to get a community composting facility. “I think we’re being very earthy this week, because we’re dealing with compost and improving the soil,” he said.

The message behind Earth Day is one of supporting environmental protection.

“I see it as a day to honor the Earth and to inspire us as individuals and as groups to stay involved and stay the course so that we continue to do the things that we need to do to make the earth better and preserve it,” said Taylor.

*Rayonna Burton-Jernigan is a University of Maryland student in journalism reporting for the News Review.*

# Garden Boosters: Teaching Owners to Tame Hedges

by Susan Harris

Greenbelt’s historic hedges along internal sidewalks, originally just 18” tall, were a popular feature in formal gardens of that era. Since then, hedges have fallen out of favor and in Old Greenbelt we see one reason why – many have grown too big for their location and become a maintenance burden for owners (Greenbelt Homes Inc. members), as well as obstacles to sidewalk pedestrians. Unfortunately, pruning to reduce the size of overgrown hedges is a skill that’s possessed by very few – even among experienced gardeners.

So, teaching Greenbelters how to fix their hedge problems is the first official project of the newly formed Old Greenbelt Gardening Boosters, of which I’m a member. Instead of a garden club per se, it’s an informal group of avid gardeners with the sole mission of helping neighbors learn to garden. Instead of organizing with dues, officers and monthly meetings, the group simply met over the winter to brainstorm ways to help Greenbelt gardeners. The Boosters include one or more Master Gardeners, professional horticulturists, garden club officers and self-taught gardeners with 50 or more years of experience

To teach Greenbelters to solve their hedge problems, the Boosters decided to enlist help from a

shrub-pruning expert at Yankee Clippers, the local shrub-pruning company founded in New York in 1991 and relocated to the D.C. area in 1996. They sent Shanti de Jongh to Old Greenbelt to teach some hedge-bound GHI members how to fix their hedges while Melissa Mackey, a GHI member and president of the Beltsville Garden Club, and I watched and learned.

During her visit to Greenbelt, de Jongh recommended pruning techniques for the most popular hedge types in Old Greenbelt – euonymus and privet – but the pruning techniques work for most shrubs. Videos, photos and tips from our training session with her are captured at [GreenbeltOnline.org/pruning](http://GreenbeltOnline.org/pruning), on the nonprofit community website that sponsored the training session.

Now, with everyone staying home, is an opportune time to tackle big gardening projects like pruning hedges. Be outdoors, be productive, be safe and get a great workout.

As soon as it’s safe for people to gather again, the Gardening Boosters have more projects in store for Greenbelt gardeners and gardeners-to-be. They include a 2020 Old Greenbelt Garden Tour and free garden consultations.

*Susan Harris is editor of GreenbeltOnline.org*

# Mask Maker Extraordinaire Sylvia Hester Beats 750 Mark

by Cathie Meetre

When it comes to making masks to help protect our community against COVID-19, Sylvia Hester is among the most prolific makers of masks. With over 750 masks made in the last three weeks, she has provided 100 to medical staff, 60 to the Greenbelt Police Department, and the remainder have become the staple of the community mask effort run via Facebook and [GreenbeltMasks@gmail.com](mailto:GreenbeltMasks@gmail.com) with the help of the City of Greenbelt Police Department.

Hester moved here in 1999, finding the community and her home very accessible and convenient and the yard perfect for her dogs. Her roots in Greenbelt, however, go deeper. Growing up in Berwyn Heights, she learned to sew at the Greenbelt Middle School in home economics and inherited a family sewing tradition that included her great-grandmother, who was a quilter. Hester treasures her great-grandmother’s final handsewn quilt, made in 1968, noting that it “is very precious to me.” At home, there was an old Singer treadle machine that had been converted to electricity. All the ingredients were there.

After a 26-year career at Med-Star Washington Hospital Center where she worked in several departments, her last assignment was in the Department of Anesthesiology. Musing on the



PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

Sylvia Hester, mask at the ready, greets visitors at a distance.

pandemic she says, “I do worry about the doctors I worked with and hope they are still healthy, as they work in the ICU.”

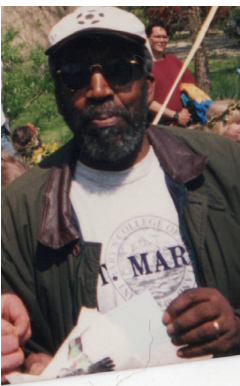
Over time, Hester made costumes for her daughters as they grew up but, following in her great-grandmother’s footsteps, she eventually specialized in quilts and wall hangings. When the COVID-19 crisis came along, she was prepared with the skills to make masks and a big pile of just the right type of cotton fabric left over from many quilting projects. With additional materials donated by the community over the last few weeks, her 750 or so masks used approximately 90 yards of fabric in 8 by 18” panels and incorporated ties cut from nearly 75 T-shirts. She completely wore out one pair of scissors and had to replace them.

Each mask takes Hester about

15 minutes to make once the pieces are cut. She’s had a lot of help from her friend, Greenbelter Sharon Miller, whom she credits with boosting mask-making productivity with precut fabrics and ties. When asked which are the best and worst parts of making masks Hester says, “Best is when they are done. Worst is the prepping of fabric.”

Hester says that she doesn’t know anybody personally who has contracted the virus, but she has still put all her energy and knowledge into helping her friends and neighbors stay healthy. The masks offer only a degree of protection, but somewhere in all those masks Hester has so generously given Greenbelters, are people who owe their health today to her efforts and some very frustrated viruses who were denied entry. She remarked that working on the masks has helped her worry less about the pandemic by keeping her busy and making her feel she can do something positive to help.

*Hester’s masks are available Friday and Monday and Wednesday, May 1, 4 and 6 from <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mask-pickup-donation-requested-tickets-102094768200>. Quantities are limited and a donation is requested but not required. Materials donors and sewing volunteers can find information on [facebook.com/groups/231369768006318/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/231369768006318/) or email [greenbeltmasks@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltmasks@gmail.com).*



# Happy 92nd Birthday John Henry Jones



Outstanding in his field, yes, but for his birthday May 6th, he’ll be out standing in his yard. His family encourages you to stop by with a 6-foot wave, birthday tune, or theatrical production. Sing from your car or bike as you pass by. Drop a card or a flower off anytime. He’ll be celebrating all week :)

# Pandemic Experiences

## Time: Where Has It Gone?

I am no longer keeping track of time as I used to. I get up when I wake up. Eat when hungry. Go outdoors walking or gardening when the sun is out, and nap for as long as I want when tired. I often read until I fall asleep – day or night.

Without a schedule to follow for sleeping and wakening, routine classes, library books in need of returning, or doing hours of on-site volunteering, my time is now limitless.

I frequently lose track of what day it is, and need to check the calendar for the exact date when writing a check. Will I remember how to set my alarm clock in the future? How will routines be changed? Will I once again be disciplined enough to arrive somewhere on time? Will this lack of a need to hurry make me more patient as I await an appointment/assistance?

When will time return?  
Mary Ann Hartnett

We invite readers to send brief accounts of how they are coping during the pandemic. Please limit responses to 150 words or less, include a photo if relevant to the story, and email to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



PHOTO BY MARY ANN BAKER

Nathan Paul Miller attempts to be safe from COVID-19.

## Family Fun Safe at Home

Denise Nadasen writes: Our family – Tom Reynolds, Denise Nadasen, Jeremy Nadasen-Reynolds and Clay Nadasen-Reynolds – have been doing wine and painting. After taking an acrylics painting class with Racquel Keller, an artist and teacher at the Community Center, Tom and Denise set up a home studio where they and their two sons can paint. The boys, Clay and Jeremy, join them for wine and painting about once a week.



PHOTO COURTESY THE NADASEN-REYNOLDS FAMILY

This painting by Clay Nadasen-Reynolds was made during an evening while he sheltered at home.

## Free Recreation Activites

Each week Greenbelt Recreation instructor Sally Davies creates a tutorial for preschoolers and then hosts an online meet-up on Fridays at 11 a.m. where artists ages one to five can show-and-tell their creations. To receive a tutorial and an invitation for your preschooler, send an email to [alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov).



PHOTO BY CATHERINE STCLAIR

Tristan plays with the egg carton dump truck that he made at home following instructions by Greenbelt Recreation instructor Sally Davies.

# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police). Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

**Theft**  
April 15, 4:45 p.m., 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway. A black Giant 28” mountain bike with red handgrips was taken from a residence.

**Trespass**  
April 18, 2:15 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court. A 27-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with trespassing by officers who responded to a report of a man down. He was found to have been banned from the apartment complex by agents of the property and was released on citation pending trial.

April 20, 2:03 a.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A 31-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with trespassing by officers who responded to a report of a trespasser at Beltway Plaza. He was released on citation pending trial.

**Burglary**  
April 17, 2:34 p.m., 6213 Springhill Court. A safe that contained jewelry and a handgun was taken from a residence.

April 20, 12:30 a.m., 7500 block Greenbelt Road. Money was removed from a safe after

forced entry into Dollar Tree.

**Vandalism**  
April 21, 9 a.m., 5707 Cherrywood Lane. Spray paint was used to place graffiti on the parking lot of the Shell Food Mart.

April 22, 2:21 a.m., 7500 block Mandan Road. A brick was used to break out the basement window of a residence.

**Vehicle Crime**  
A red 2015 Ford Escape SUV with Maryland tags 2CC9175 was taken on April 21 from 9008 Breezewood Terrace.


Two tags, Maryland 9CE0568, were taken from 9012 Breezewood Terrace.

Two thefts occurred after windows were broken out. In 22 Court Crescent Road an airbag and phone charger were taken and in the 7800 block Mandan Road clothing and boxing gear were taken. An attempted robbery occurred when a window was broken out in 9234 Springhill Lane in an attempt to take a wallet left in plain view.

Windows were broken out in the 7800 block Mandan Road and 6001 Cherrywood Court.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. Call 1-866-411-TIPS.

People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.



PRELIMINARY AGENDA  
GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Thursday, May 7, 2020

A. **Notice of Special Open Session Board Meeting on April 30, 2020**

GHI's Board of Directors will hold a Special Open Session meeting on Thursday, Apr 30, 2020 beginning at 7.00 PM, to consider approval of membership applications. You may join the Zoom meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone via: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86124060579?pwd=ZmFYS2NCUWJMTFQrR2w1Y2Itb25Fdz09>  
Meeting ID: 861 2406 0579  
Password: 172855

You can also dial in using your phone:  
+1 301 715 8592 US  
Meeting ID: 861 2406 0579  
Password: 172855

B. **Preliminary Agenda Items for the GHI/GDC Board Meetings on May 7, 2020**

\*GHI Special Open Session Meeting – begins at 7.00 p.m.  
Approve Motion to Conduct an Executive Session Meeting on May 7, 2020

GHI Executive Session Meeting – begins after the GHI Special Open Session Meeting adjourns

- Member Financial Matters
- Approve Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting Held on April 2, 2020
- Consider Approval of the Following Contracts;
  - 2020 Contract for Masonry Crack Repairs - 1st reading
  - 2020 Contract for Parking Lot Repairs - 1st reading
  - 2020 Spring Concrete Repairs - 1st reading
  - Contract for Installation of Access Control System for Doors and Gates at the Administration Building -1st reading
- Status of Contract for 2020-2022 Waste Disposal Services
- Complaint Matters

\*GDC Open Session Meeting– begins at 7.45 p.m.

- Approve Minutes of Open Session Meeting Held on April 2, 2020
- Review 2019 Year-end Financial Statements

\*GHI Regular Open Session Meeting– begins after the GDC Open Session Meeting adjourns

- Announcement of Executive Session Meeting Held on April 16, 2020
- Approve Minutes of Regular Open Session Meeting Held on April 2, 2020
- External Auditor's Report with GHI's Consolidated Financial Statements as of December 31, 2019 and 2018
- Review 2019 Year-end Financial Statements
- Finance Committee's Recommendation re: Fee Deferrals for Members Who Experience Financial Hardship Due to COVID-19
- Zoning Task Force Recommendations re: Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone Study and Standards
- Architectural Review Committee's Recommendation re: Revisions to Member Handbook Section V11: Fences
- Buildings Committee Recommendation re: Revisions to Section X of the GHI Member Handbook

\*Members and Visitors may attend the GHI Special Open Session, GDC Open Session and GHI Regular Open Session Meetings via the following Zoom meeting platform:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81795579841?pwd=NmFkQUVwUzZlOHVhMG5lc0JCUWJlZz09>  
Meeting ID: 817 9557 9841  
Password: 850103

You can also dial in using your phone:  
+1 301 715 8592 US  
Meeting ID: 817 9557 9841  
Password: 850103

C. **Postponement of GHI's May 14, 2020 Annual Membership Meeting**

GHI's Board of Directors has postponed the May 14, 2020 annual membership meeting, due to public gathering restrictions that have been imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, and uncertainty about when those restrictions will be lifted. The Board proposes to hold the annual membership meeting by June 30, 2020, provided there is sufficient time to prepare for a meeting by that date, after the restrictions are lifted.

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

**HELP WANTED**

**LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENT WANTED** – Evenings and week-ends. Guaranteed income. Please send experience and availability to [greenbeltbroker@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltbroker@gmail.com).

**CLERICAL /SECRETARIAL SUPPORT NEEDED** – Lanham location. Own car needed. Call 301-538-5911.

**STYLIST, NAIL TECH, SHAMPOO HELP** -- If you have a good following and remain employed with me for the term of one year, I will pay a \$1,000 bonus at the end of the first year. Dominick's, 301-980-9200. Shop is in Greenbelt.

**SERVICES**

The key to the perfect low maintenance lawn is gravel, lots of gravel! But for those who prefer an actual grass yard, call Dennis at Lawn and Order for your cutting, care and related needs. 240-264-7638

**COMPUTERS** – Systems installation, troubleshooting, wireless checkup, anti-virus, firewall, -etc. 240-601-4163.

**LEW'S CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY** – Free estimates, fabric samples, local business for over 30 years. Call Missy, 301-345-7273.

**LAWN MOWING** Service for the Greenbelt area. Contact 240-391-8615

**PATTI'S PETSITTING** – By a Professional Animal Care Specialist. All types of animals! Insured! Reasonable rates! References available. Patti, 301-910-0050.

**KELLAHER MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING, LLC** – Plumbing, electrical, painting, drywall, LEAF REMOVAL, landscape design, flower beds, bucket truck services, stump grinding, pruning trees & removal, pole lighting, power washing siding & decks. Mulch & top soil delivery. [Dkellaher@hotmail.com](mailto:Dkellaher@hotmail.com). 301-318-5472. Insured. Visa, MasterCard, Discover.



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**ESTATE PLANNING** – will, health directive, financial POA package \$250, MD licensed attorney, Naomi Littlefield, 202-246-1072

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**DAVE'S PLUMBING SERVICE** – Repair/replace or remodel. Free estimates. 240-470-5450.

**ANGELA'S HOUSE CLEANING** – Cleaning your home like my own, at reasonable prices. Reference available in Greenbelt. Ten years professional experience. [AngelaLazol@hotmail.com](mailto:AngelaLazol@hotmail.com) or 240-645-5140.

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**Classified Advertisements**

Because the Community Center is closed, individuals wishing to make payments or submit advertising may drop their ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the building (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building). The office door, up a short flight of exterior stairs, is clearly labeled with a News Review sign. If a receipt is required, request it with the ad submission and provide a contact email address.

If the exact amount for the ad is not included or further information is needed, call the ad desk at 301-474-4131 or send an email to [ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

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**RATES**

**CLASSIFIED:** \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 8 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

**BOXED:** \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 4 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 8 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

**NEEDED:** Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

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**2 Eastway Unit G \$141,900**  
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**3 Crescent Road Unit B \$199,500**  
**3 Bedroom 1 bath**

**2 Eastway Unit E \$195,000**  
**3 Bedroom 2 bath w/addition**

**Please check out the virtual tours!**

**2 Plateau Place Unit C \$169,900**  
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**37 Ridge Road Unit B \$199,000**  
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Realtor  
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Office: 301-441-1071  
Cell: 410-365-6769  
[cdoss12279@gmail.com](mailto:cdoss12279@gmail.com)

Frances Fendlay 240-481-3851  
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PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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SERVICES continued from page 1

but using it does not come so naturally to people without prior experience.

Batey says that one of the challenges, with social isolation and even before COVID-19, is that [some seniors] don't have cable and don't have internet access. She continued, "When those services are not available, all of a sudden you just have your telephone. There are so many things that people could be participating in and enjoying visually [on the internet] like seeing family. We've seen that as a challenge as we move to things like telemedicine, doing therapy and care via Zoom and that sort of thing. In many instances, you are missing a beat if you're not connected."

In response, GAIL is looking for ways for people without internet access to get Wi-Fi at a low cost in their homes. The hope is

that isolated seniors will be able to find entertainment – be it an audio book or a Facetime call with relatives – to help weather COVID-19.

Technology also plays a big role in the work CARES is doing. In fact, it is perhaps the only reason the service can keep functioning. CARES provides residents with therapy, mental health resources, crisis counseling and educational assistance. Liz Park, the director of Greenbelt CARES, says social distancing has predictably limited the staff's ability to meet with clients face-to-face, but has not brought these services to a halt.

Park says CARES has been able to "continue with all of [their] clinical clients who are able and want to continue using teletherapy services." She says facilitating therapy sessions

through Zoom has gone well so far, but notes engaging children virtually can be quite a challenge. "We're getting creative in how we do some of the work we would do normally with kids. We use games and such."

CARES plans to accept new therapy clients shortly. Cognizant that more people may begin seeking mental health care for the first time amid the pandemic, Park says the organization is looking for creative ways to give more people access to their services, like starting group counseling sessions on Zoom.

With things so uncertain, being prepared for what is happening right now and what is to come remains vital for the people of Greenbelt. GAIL and CARES are doing their parts to assist with the process.

Drop Us a Line!  
Electronically, that is.  
editor@greenbelt  
newsreview.com

Real Estate and Social Distancing

I am still doing my part to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus, but if your need is urgent, let's talk about how to work together safely. I am helping people who need shelter now. Real estate is an essential industry, and I am working—carefully and safely.

For those of you who are safe for the moment, **now is a great time to get ready** for the return to a normal market.

- **Buyers**, let's talk by phone or video conferencing on goal-setting and connecting with the right lender for preapproval. You can be ready to roll as soon as the quarantine is lifted! Schedule with me via text 301-789-6294
- **Sellers**: let's plan your best sales strategy and get your house show-ready. Right now, you may have a little more time than usual to get your house shined up and looking great! Schedule with me via text 301-789-6294

Let's all do our part to keep each other safe. Be in touch!

Kim Kash  
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kkash@caprikarealty.com  
www.caprikarealty.com

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The Leader in Greenbelt Real Estate

**Lakeside Subdivision** Enormous 3BR/2.5BA 2-story rambler w/GARAGE! Finished lower level with family room & office. Remodeled kit. on main level.

**Westchester Park** 2 Br / 2Ba condominium with balcony & amazing views of Greenbelt Park. Remodeled throughout, lots of closets and storage. Nice!

**3 Bedroom Townhome** Refinished Oak hardwood flooring on both levels. Fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands. Priced to sell at \$149,900.

**Rambler on large lot** 4 bedroom, 2 bath home on large wooded lot with parking for 5+ cars. Hardwood flooring and brick fireplace on main level.

**2 Bedroom Townhome** Priced to sell! Modern tub surround in bathroom. Upgraded cabs. & dishwasher in kit. Separate laundry area. \$124,900

Need to reach us right away?  
Text 'Greenbelt' to 88000 on your cell phone and get an instant response! We can show you any listing in Greenbelt.

Scan here with your cell phone and go directly to our website! Search all of the MLS and more.

**Single Level Living** Lower level 1-bedroom GHI townhome - no stairs! Large wood deck in fenced backyard provides plenty of room for entertaining.

**Rancher** 4 br, 3 ba home with 2-car garage, 2nd floor full finished basement, 2nd floor hardwood flooring, remodeled kitchen & more. \$349,000

**Large floorplan w/addition** Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br.

**Townhome w/Garage** 2 br home in the heart of Greenbelt. Large 11' x 17' master br. Remodeled kitchen with granite counters. Shaded backyard w/patio.

**Townhome with 2 additions** 2 bedroom GHI home on fenced, corner lot. Large family room addition in back, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.

**4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome** Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.

**Townhome with addition** 2 br townhome w front laundry/office addition. Opened kitchen w/passthru & pantry. Fenced backyard with large deck.

**One Acre Lot** Potential for up to 4 separate dwellings. 2-3 br rambler with 3br. Basement has been professionally waterproofed. \$399,900

**Greenbelt Condominium** Remodeled 2 br cond with modern kitchen & extra cabinets. Full size in-lr. four-round use. Remodeled ceramic-tiled bath.

**Addition - Backs to Woodlands** Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on main level. Zoned HVAC system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck.

**Brick Townhome** 2 Bedroom GHI townhome remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen with s/s dishwasher. Hardwood both levels. \$169,900

**Greenbriar** 2 Bedroom, 2 Greenbelt Condominium. New carpeting and laminate flooring. New Owners looking for cash buyers at \$129,900.

**Upper Level One Bedroom** GHI home with full-sized washer and dryer in separate laundry room. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!

Your Greenbelt Specialists  
In Roosevelt Center

PRIMARY continued from page 1

All registered, eligible voters will be mailed a ballot for this election, which should arrive from early to mid-May. There is no need to request a ballot. It will be mailed to the address the Board of Elections has on file. If the voter wishes to have it mailed elsewhere, the standard absentee ballot request form, available on the Board of Elections website (elections.maryland.gov) can be used for this purpose. All mailed ballots will include a return envelope and prepaid postage. Voters who prefer to drop off their mail ballots, rather than returning them by mail, may do so at designated ballot drop-off locations from Thursday, May 21, through Tuesday, June 2. A list of drop-off locations will be available soon.

In-person voting will be available on Election Day, June 2, for those who cannot vote by mail. No fewer than one and no more than four voting centers per county will be designated for this purpose. A list of voting centers will be available soon. Generally, the centers will be the sites of

previously designated early voting locations.

To reduce the risk of spreading the novel coronavirus, the State Board of Elections strongly recommends that voters who can vote by mail do so. Voted ballots must be postmarked on or before Tuesday, June 2.

The location of drop-off spots and voting centers will be printed in this paper when they are identified.



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SELLING HOMES DURING A PANDEMIC

Freedom Realty is using extreme precautions, including masks, gloves, disinfectant spray & wipes, as well as social distancing. We miss the close interactions we are used to having, but we are adhering to intense safety measures!

**Sarah V. Liska**  
Real Estate Broker  
Owner of Freedom Realty  
Phone: 301.385.0523  
Sarah@freedomrealtyhomes.com

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**Susan Barker**  
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Susan@freedomrealtyhomes.com

# Old Greenbelt Theatre Offers Virtual Movie Experiences

by Brogan Gerhart

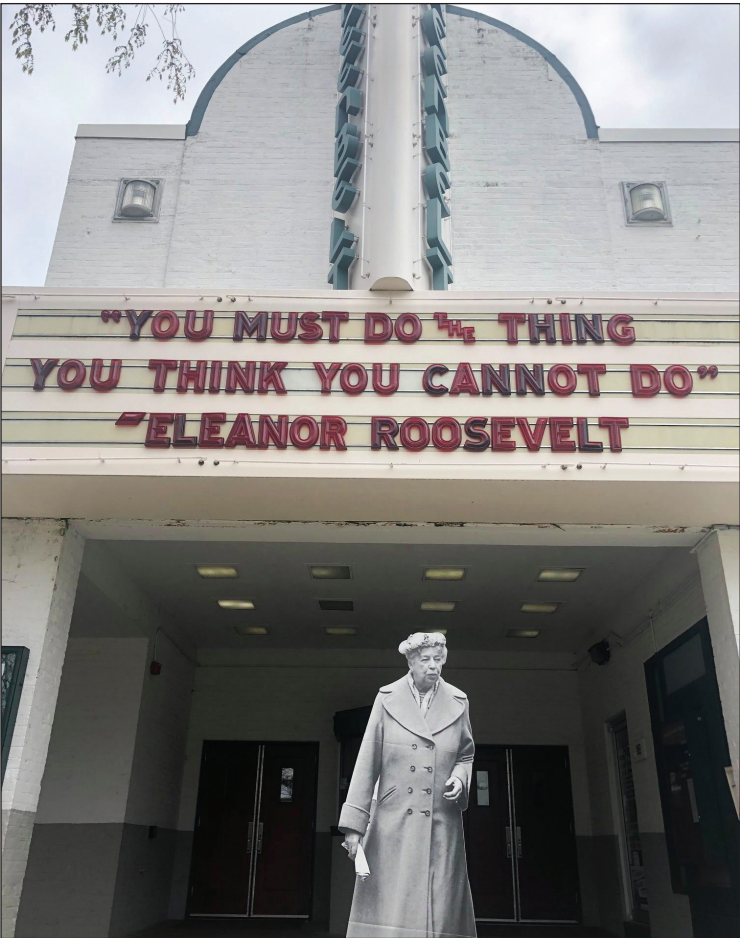


PHOTO COURTESY OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

“Another week, another marquee,” a post from Old Greenbelt Theatre’s Facebook reads. “This week we share the wise words of a woman who helped see our country through a different crisis.”

“Connections with a purpose,” is what Cynthia Swan called Old Greenbelt Theatre’s virtual movie screenings and weekly discussions. “I’m meeting new people and re-meeting neighbors. The conversation is great and people tend to share their personal insights.”

Since Friday, March 13, the Old Greenbelt Theatre (OGT) has been temporarily closed to the public – a few days prior to theaters nationwide following suit – to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

“We will reopen,” Caitlin McGrath, OGT executive director, said. “It’s just up to the government when.”

But movie lovers bound by the constraints of social distancing should not worry. The OGT is offering a virtual movie-going experience to its patrons on its website, [greenbelttheatre.org](http://greenbelttheatre.org), as well as Sunday ‘Flick of the Week’ discussions via Zoom.

“We are more than a multiplex,” McGrath said. “Even when we aren’t in the same space, the time we spend speaking to and seeing each other is important.”

Swan said that although she misses sitting in the new theater, “I really appreciate the participation in the discussions. It really helps when you’re isolating.”

According to McGrath, the ‘Flick of the Week’ is by far the most popular virtual event hosted by OGT, its largest number of participants numbering well over 70 people so far.

Along with weekly movie screenings and discussions, the theater is also integrating some first-run films sent directly to people’s favorite streaming services such as Taika Waititi’s *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* and staff picks like *Sweet Land*, *To Catch a Thief*, *A League of Their Own* and many more.

Partnering with the Greenbelt Library, OGT also resumed its Storytime on Screen virtually on Monday, April 13, according to McGrath.

“We can’t do what we do without the community,” McGrath said. “People really like being able to interact with friends and neighbors, even when they’re social distancing. The thing that makes [purchasing a ticket with] our theater different than buying a subscription to a streaming service is that we offer our audience the chance to connect virtually with others.”

McGrath said that while helping support community engagement, buying a virtual ticket to view movies with OGT also supports the business and staff during this challenging time.

“Along with a number of fixed costs, staff are still getting paid and working from home,” McGrath said. “We are all hard at work to achieve the goal of continuing to pay every single staff member.”

McGrath wanted to call special attention to staff members Leslie McLaughlin and Kelly McLaughlin, as well as Amy Knesel and Brenna Lauer, who were responsible for putting the Eleanor Roosevelt quote on the marquee. “I’m very proud of all of them,” she said. “They deserve so much credit.”

With ample time spent indoors to read, watch movies and reflect on the art that exists around the community, McGrath said that she hopes people, at the end of their day, see this art as something they want to survive following the public health crisis.

“If you value coming to our theater when we’re open, then joining us virtually is a way to continue to support us and keep our theater afloat, even when we’re closed,” McGrath said.

Movie tickets can be purchased and registration for Sunday movie discussions can be found at [greenbelttheatre.org](http://greenbelttheatre.org). So, sit back, relax, revel in the freedom of not having to sneak a pocketful of snacks or a bag full of fast food into the theater and enjoy the show!

# #MuseumFromHome: New Ways to Experience the Past

by Brogan Gerhart

Until further notice, the Greenbelt Museum will be closed to combat the spread of the coronavirus, but Director Megan Searing Young said that the museum plans to reopen once it receives the green light from the city, county and state government.

It’s important that the museum remains closed until it is safe for businesses to open again because, as Searing Young explained, the Greenbelt Museum is a “micro-museum.”

“One of our challenges is how small the site is,” Searing Young said. However, learning about Greenbelt’s history does not have to stop just because the museum’s doors are closed.

“We’re not just a house,” Searing Young said. “We think of the museum as more of a concept.”

Since the Greenbelt Museum has been closed to the public, she has been taking to the museum’s social media pages, encouraging the use of the hashtag #MuseumFromHome on its Facebook (@greenbeltmuseum), Instagram (@greenbeltmuseum) and Twitter (@GreenbeltMuseum) accounts.

The #MuseumFromHome effort includes daily posts by the museum highlighting interesting facts about Greenbelt’s history. Some of the most recent posts include histories and facts about Eleanor Roosevelt, FDR’s first fireside chat, and vintage glassware, according to the museum’s Instagram page.

Searing Young explained that #MuseumFromHome is a way to keep the community connected to its past and to have something interesting to keep them engaged during the day-to-day.

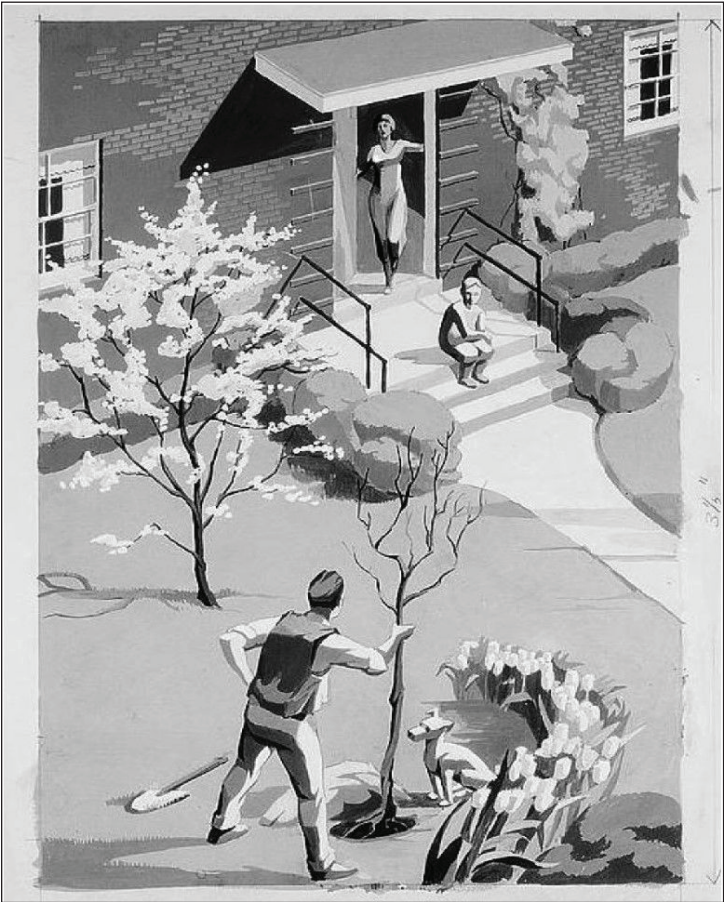
Regarding upcoming events that were to be hosted by the museum with other partners, “we will be as flexible as possible when it comes to rescheduling,” Searing Young said. “That’s one of the advantages of being a small museum. We have a fair amount of freedom to rearrange things.”

Although its events will be postponed until the museum reopens, the Greenbelt Museum will continue to educate the community through its #MuseumFromHome posts and blog, which can be found at [greenbeltmuseum.org](http://greenbeltmuseum.org).

In light of the public health crisis, Searing Young said that while the museum is here to preserve Greenbelt’s history as a city, “Greenbelt’s greatest resource is its people.” And her main concern now is about the health and well-being of Greenbelt’s older citizens and the personal histories that come with them.

One way that Searing Young recommends residents pass time while cooped up indoors with family is to share memories, oral histories and photographs with one another. An app called StoryCorps ([storycorps.org/participate/storycorps-app/](http://storycorps.org/participate/storycorps-app/)) can be used to record oral histories and archive these recordings at the Library of Congress, according to StoryCorps’ website.

From touring a #MuseumFromHome to sharing priceless memories with loved ones, there’s bound to be more



Poster promoting Greenbelt as a new vision in the 1930s

- Photos Courtesy Library of Congress



Victory Garden poster exemplifies the way in which WWII and today’s pandemic inspire residents to act.

than one thing we can learn both about Greenbelt and about each other during these truly historic times.

Brogan Gerhart is a University of Maryland student in journalism reporting for the News Review.

# Neighbors Make Joyful Noise Thanking All Service Workers

A group of neighbors on 2 Court Southway is gathering every night at 7 p.m. for five minutes of hand-clapping or pot and pan banging (or other noise-makers) to offer a big, and continuing, thank you to all essential personnel in our city and the world for all they do to keep us as safe as possible. The neighbors stand in their own yards but can

see and hear each other. Reading about this being done in other cities inspired one resident, Robin Hawley Gorsline, to propose it to his neighbors. Learn more about how this is being done around the nation at #clapbecausewecare.

See photo on page 1.

